

IDIOMS & PHRASES

Complete MCQ Answer Key & Explanations

Questions 81 – 129 | Advanced FPSC & Other Federal Model Papers

Every question re-checked • Correct answers highlighted & ticked • Full explanations included

Green highlight with a checkmark (✓) marks the verified correct option. A short explanation is provided below every question.

81

Meera might **scream blue murder**, but I feel Doli should get the promotion since she is better qualified for the job.

(a) Someone has been murdered with some blue liquid

(b) Someone is being murdered and has become blue

(c) Suffer from persecution complex

(d) Make a great deal of noise and object vehemently ✓

Correct Answer: (d) Make a great deal of noise and object vehemently ✓

EXPLANATION

To "scream blue murder" means to protest loudly and violently, making a huge fuss about something you strongly object to.

82

Having sold off his factory, he is **now a gentleman at large**.

(a) Has no serious occupation ✓

(b) Is living comfortably

(c) Is respected by everybody

(d) Is held in high esteem

Correct Answer: (a) Has no serious occupation ✓

EXPLANATION

A "gentleman at large" is a person with no fixed job or responsibility - someone free of any serious occupation.

83

Though he has lot of money, yet all his plans are **built upon sand**.

(a) established on insecure foundations ✓

(b) based on inexperience

(c) resting on cheap material

(d) resting on immature ideas

Correct Answer: (a) established on insecure foundations ✓

EXPLANATION

Something "built upon sand" lacks a firm foundation, so it is bound to collapse - i.e., it rests on insecure foundations.

84

His plan was so complicated that it **floored** his listeners.

(a) entertained

(b) puzzled ✓

(c) annoyed

(d) encouraged

Correct Answer: (b) puzzled ✓

EXPLANATION

To "floor" someone means to completely baffle or puzzle them, leaving them unable to respond.

85

There has been **bad blood** between the two communities even before shouting.

(a) Impure blood

(b) Ill feeling ✓

(c) Bloody fights

(d) Quarrels

Correct Answer: (b) Ill feeling ✓

EXPLANATION

"Bad blood" refers to long-standing ill feeling, resentment or hostility between people or groups.

86

The curious neighbors were disappointed as the young couple's quarrel was just a **storm in a tea cup**.

(a) violent quarrel

(b) fuss about a trifle ✓

(c) brittle situation

(d) quarrel about tea cups

Correct Answer: (b) fuss about a trifle ✓

EXPLANATION

A "storm in a tea cup" is a great fuss or excitement over something trivial and unimportant.

87

Mohan always **keeps himself to himself**.

(a) Is too busy	(b) Is selfish
(c) Is unsociable ✓	(d) Does not take sides

Correct Answer: (c) Is unsociable ✓

✎ EXPLANATION

To "keep oneself to oneself" means to avoid mixing with others - to be reserved or unsociable.

88

While the ladies continued their **small talk** in the drawing room, I felt bored.

(a) whispering	(b) backbiting
(c) gossip	(d) light conversation ✓

Correct Answer: (d) light conversation ✓

✎ EXPLANATION

"Small talk" refers to polite, light, casual conversation about unimportant matters.

89

My car **broke down** on way to the railway station.

(a) stopped	(b) met with an accident
(c) ran out of petrol	(d) failed to work ✓

Correct Answer: (d) failed to work ✓

✎ EXPLANATION

"Broke down" means the vehicle stopped functioning due to mechanical failure - it failed to work.

90

My father **strained every nerve** to enable me to get settled in life.

(a) worked very hard ✓	(b) spent a huge amount
(c) tried all tricks	(d) bribed several persons

Correct Answer: (a) worked very hard ✓

✎ EXPLANATION

To "strain every nerve" means to make the greatest possible effort - to work extremely hard.

91

He is always **picking holes** in every project.

(a) creating problems in	(b) finding fault with ✓
(c) suggesting improvement in	(d) asking irrelevant questions

Correct Answer: (b) finding fault with ✓

EXPLANATION

"Picking holes" in something means finding fault with it or criticizing its weaknesses.

92

The **die is cast** and now let us hope for the best.

(a) project is over	(b) decision is made ✓
(c) death is inevitable	(d) cloth has been dyed

Correct Answer: (b) decision is made ✓

EXPLANATION

"The die is cast" means an irrevocable decision has been made and there is no turning back.

93

Pt. Nehru was born with a **silver spoon in his mouth**.

(a) born in a middle class family	(b) born in a wealthy family ✓
(c) born in a royal family	(d) born in a family of nationalists

Correct Answer: (b) born in a wealthy family ✓

EXPLANATION

To be "born with a silver spoon in one's mouth" means to be born into wealth and privilege.

94

The arrival of the mother-in-law in the family proved a **rift in the lute**.

(a) caused unnecessary worries	(b) brought about disharmony ✓
(c) caused a pleasant atmosphere	(d) brought about a disciplined atmosphere

Correct Answer: (b) brought about disharmony ✓

EXPLANATION

A "rift in the lute" is a small flaw that grows into a serious source of disharmony or discord.

95

The prince did not **take after** the king.

(a) run after	(b) follow
(c) precede	(d) resemble ✓

Correct Answer: (d) resemble ✓

EXPLANATION

To "take after" someone (usually a parent) means to resemble them in appearance or character.

96

Don't lose patience, things will improve **by and by**.

(a) soon ✓	(b) finally
(c) gradually	(d) unexpectedly

Correct Answer: (a) soon ✓

EXPLANATION

"By and by" is an idiom meaning "before long" or "soon" - after a short while.

97

Do not imagine that Dharmendra really sorry that his wife died. Those are only **crocodile tears**.

(a) Pretended sorrow ✓	(b) Tears a crocodile
(c) A weeping crocodile	(d) Mild regret

Correct Answer: (a) Pretended sorrow ✓

EXPLANATION

"Crocodile tears" describe insincere, pretended grief - sorrow that is not genuinely felt.

98

The P.M has **pulled up** Orissa partymen.

(a) elevated	(b) rewarded
(c) reprimanded ✓	(d) punished

Correct Answer: (c) reprimanded ✓

EXPLANATION

To "pull up" someone means to reprimand or scold them for a fault or mistake.

99

He **did me a good turn** by recommending me for the post of Vice Principal.

(a) returned my kindness	(b) did an act of kindness ✓
(c) improved my prospects	(d) became suddenly good

Correct Answer: (b) did an act of kindness ✓

EXPLANATION

To "do someone a good turn" means to perform a kind, helpful act for them.

100

He believes in the policy of **making hay while the sun shines**.

(a) giving bribes to get his work done	(b) seeking advice from one and all
(c) helping those who help him	(d) making the best use of a favorable situation ✓

Correct Answer: (d) making the best use of a favorable situation ✓

EXPLANATION

"Making hay while the sun shines" means taking full advantage of a favourable opportunity while it lasts.

101

His friends advised him to be **fair and square** in his dealings.

(a) Careful	(b) Considerate
(c) Polite	(d) Upright ✓

Correct Answer: (d) Upright ✓

EXPLANATION

"Fair and square" means honest and straightforward - i.e., upright in one's dealings.

102

It is **high time** that India did something about the population problem.

(a) already late	(b) appropriate time ✓
(c) desired occasion	(d) auspicious moment

Correct Answer: (b) appropriate time ✓

EXPLANATION

"High time" means the right or appropriate (and often overdue) time for something to be done.

103

He is always **standing up for** the weak and oppressed.

(a) Boosting the claims of	(b) Championing the cause of ✓
(c) Seeking help of others for	(d) Moving about with

Correct Answer: (b) Championing the cause of ✓

✎ **EXPLANATION**

To "stand up for" someone means to support and defend them - to champion their cause.

104

We should **give a wide berth** to bad characters.

(a) give publicity to	(b) publicly condemn
(c) keep away from ✓	(d) not sympathise with

Correct Answer: (c) keep away from ✓

✎ **EXPLANATION**

To "give a wide berth" to someone or something means to deliberately avoid or keep away from them.

105

Turban is in **vogue** in some communities.

(a) in fashion ✓	(b) out of use
(c) vaguely used	(d) never used

Correct Answer: (a) in fashion ✓

✎ **EXPLANATION**

"In vogue" means currently fashionable or popular.

106

The old man was **cut to the quick** when his rich son refused to recognise him.

(a) surprised	(b) hurt intensely ✓
(c) annoyed	(d) irritated

Correct Answer: (b) hurt intensely ✓

✎ **EXPLANATION**

To be "cut to the quick" means to be hurt very deeply, especially emotionally.

107 I requested him to **put in a word for me**.

(a) introduce	(b) assist
(c) support	(d) recommend ✓

Correct Answer: (d) recommend ✓

✎ EXPLANATION

To "put in a word for" someone means to speak in their favour - to recommend them.

108 The dacoit murdered the man **in cold blood**.

(a) coldly	(b) boldly
(c) ruthlessly	(d) deliberately ✓

Correct Answer: (d) deliberately ✓

✎ EXPLANATION

"In cold blood" means an act carried out deliberately and without any feeling of mercy or remorse.

109 He has built a big business empire by his **sharp practices**.

(a) extreme hard work	(b) keen business skills
(c) dishonest dealings ✓	(d) sharp intelligence

Correct Answer: (c) dishonest dealings ✓

✎ EXPLANATION

"Sharp practices" refers to dishonest or unethical dealings, often bordering on the illegal.

110 The secretary and the treasurer are **hand in glove** with each other.

(a) very good friends	(b) constantly fighting
(c) associates in some action ✓	(d) suspicious of each other

Correct Answer: (c) associates in some action ✓

✎ EXPLANATION

"Hand in glove" means working very closely together, usually in some scheme or action.

111

He never liked the idea of keeping his wife **under his thumb** and so he let her do what she liked.

(a) Pressed down	(b) Unduly under control ✓
(c) Below his thumb	(d) Under tyrannical conditions

Correct Answer: (b) Unduly under control ✓

EXPLANATION

To keep someone "under one's thumb" means to have them completely, and often unfairly, under one's control.

112

It is time that professors came down from their **ivory towers** and studied the real needs of the students.

(a) Detachment and seclusion ✓	(b) A tower made of ivory
(c) Prison	(d) Dream lands

Correct Answer: (a) Detachment and seclusion ✓

EXPLANATION

An "ivory tower" symbolises a state of detachment and seclusion from the practical realities of life.

113

You have to be a **cool customer** and be patient if you want to get the best deals.

(a) Be calm and not be excitable	(b) Have a cool head ✓
(c) Be uncommunicative	(d) Be choosy

Correct Answer: (b) Have a cool head ✓

EXPLANATION

A "cool customer" is someone who stays calm and composed, i.e., has a cool head, even under pressure.

114

There was no opposition to the new policy by the **rank and file** of the Government.

(a) the official machinery	(b) the ordinary members ✓
(c) the majority	(d) the cabinet ministers

Correct Answer: (b) the ordinary members ✓

EXPLANATION

"Rank and file" refers to the ordinary members of an organisation, as opposed to its leaders.

115

The clerk **wiped the nose** of his employer by submitting a false bill and was dismissed from his job.

(a) Cleaned the nose	(b) Cheated ✓
(c) Abused	(d) Slapped

Correct Answer: (b) Cheated ✓

EXPLANATION

To "wipe someone's nose" (idiomatically) means to cheat or dupe them.

116

I **have a bone to pick** with you in this matter.

(a) Am indebted	(b) Am angry ✓
(c) Am indebted	(d) Will join hands

Correct Answer: (b) Am angry ✓

EXPLANATION

"To have a bone to pick with someone" means to be annoyed with them and want to discuss a grievance.

117

The new C.M **stuck his neck out** today and promised 10kgs free wheat a month for all rural families.

(a) took an oath	(b) took a risk ✓
(c) extended help	(d) caused embarrassment

Correct Answer: (b) took a risk ✓

EXPLANATION

To "stick one's neck out" means to take a risk by doing or saying something that may expose one to criticism or failure.

118

Harassed by repeated acts of injustice. He decided to **put his foot down**.

(a) not to yield ✓	(b) resign
(c) to accept the proposal unconditionally	(d) withdraw

Correct Answer: (a) not to yield ✓

EXPLANATION

To "put one's foot down" means to take a firm stand and refuse to yield or compromise further.

119

The class could not **keep a straight face** on hearing the strange pronunciation of the new teacher.

(a) remain silent	(b) remain serious ✓
(c) remain mute	(d) remain disturbed

Correct Answer: (b) remain serious ✓

EXPLANATION

To "keep a straight face" means to remain serious and avoid laughing or smiling.

120

The parliamentary inquiry into the Bofors deal did not **bring to light** any startling facts.

(a) Prove	(b) Highlight
(c) Probe	(d) Disclose ✓

Correct Answer: (d) Disclose ✓

EXPLANATION

"To bring to light" means to reveal or disclose something previously hidden or unknown.

121

His speech **went down well** with the majority of the audience.

(a) found acceptance with	(b) was attentively listened to by
(c) was appreciated by ✓	(d) was applauded by

Correct Answer: (c) was appreciated by ✓

EXPLANATION

"To go down well" means to be well received or appreciated by others.

122

Rohail has **bitten off more than he chew**.

(a) Is trying to do too much ✓	(b) Is very greedy
(c) Is always hungry	(d) Has little regard for others

Correct Answer: (a) Is trying to do too much ✓

EXPLANATION

To "bite off more than one can chew" means to take on more work or responsibility than one can actually manage.

123

The detective **left no stone unturned** to trace the culprit.

(a) took no pains	(b) did very irrelevant things
(c) resorted to illegitimate practices	(d) used all available means ✓

Correct Answer: (d) used all available means ✓

EXPLANATION

"To leave no stone unturned" means to try every possible means to achieve something.

124

The authorities **took him to task** for his negligence.

(a) gave him additional work	(b) suspended his assignment
(c) reprimanded him ✓	(d) forced him to resign

Correct Answer: (c) reprimanded him ✓

EXPLANATION

"To take someone to task" means to reprimand or scold them for a fault or mistake.

125

In spite of the immense pressure exerted by the militants, the Government has decided not to **give in**.

(a) accede	(b) yield ✓
(c) oblige	(d) confirm

Correct Answer: (b) yield ✓

EXPLANATION

"To give in" means to yield or surrender to pressure or demands.

126

Their business is now **on its last legs**.

(a) About to fructify	(b) About to perish ✓
(c) About to produce results	(d) About to take off

Correct Answer: (b) About to perish ✓

EXPLANATION

"On its last legs" describes something (like a business) that is in very poor condition and about to fail or collapse.

127

He **went back on** his promise to vote for me.

(a) withdrew ✓	(b) forgot
(c) reinforced	(d) supported

Correct Answer: (a) withdrew ✓

EXPLANATION

"To go back on" a promise means to fail to keep it - to withdraw from a commitment made earlier.

128

The old beggar **ran amuck** and began to throw stones at the passerby.

(a) became desperate	(b) ran about wildly ✓
(c) became annoyed	(d) felt disgusted

Correct Answer: (b) ran about wildly ✓

EXPLANATION

"To run amuck" means to behave in an uncontrolled, wild and frenzied manner, often attacking others.

129

I cannot **conceive** of a time when I was without a refrigerator.

(a) Imagine ✓	(b) Give birth
(c) Understand	(d) Depend

Correct Answer: (a) Imagine ✓

EXPLANATION

Here "conceive" means to imagine or form a mental picture of something.